

**Lunenburg Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Deb Lincoln called the meeting to order at 9:37am
Present: Deb Lincoln (Chairperson), Diane Nowd, Jim McGuigan, Cathy Beale, Lou Franco, Elena Christopher, Ana Lockwood
Excused: Helen Balcom, Susan O'Sullivan, Jane Rabbitt (Vice-Chair), Jack Rabbitt,
Guests: Deb Goodsell (COA Director) Barbara Coulombe (Eagle House Supporters)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

BOARD COMMENT: Ms. Lockwood reported that last week the School Committee shared that there was close to 600k in unspent funds from their FY25 Budget. She encouraged anyone to reach out to their public officials to express their thoughts on this.

MINUTES APPROVAL: July minutes motioned for approval by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Mr. McGuigan. Motion passed unanimously. August minutes motioned for approval by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Mr. McGuigan. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to support Mr. Rabbitt representing the COA to work with the town towards the 41A tax exemption by Ms. Lockwood, seconded by Ms. Beale. Approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Tea Party**: all tickets are sold.
2. **Volunteer Recognition**: Ms. Goodsell reported that this will be held in the Spring to align with National Volunteer Appreciation week.
3. **Hometown Heros Program**: Ms. Lincoln noted that Jennifer Sanderson from the Historical Commission is the lead for this project.
4. **Historical Commission - Boston Post Cane**: Ms. Lincoln read a letter from the Historical Commission. They stated they have obtained a replica cane and would like to be part of future Boston Post Cane celebrations.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Financial Reports**: Ms. Goodsell presented the current financial status. Discussion on utilizing funds allocated for the Meal Site Manager to increase the nutritional services offered to seniors. Ms. Goodsell reported that she went before the Tri-Board and presented the initial FY27 budget.
2. **Caregiver Connection Report**: First Lunch and Learn will be next week. There are a few signups currently, but many more spots are available, and Ms. Beale encouraged everyone to share this program to make sure all are aware of this presentation.
3. **New Hours - November**: Hours will change in November to be open Monday 8-5. Wednesday will remain open late. This change will stay in effect for the fall/winter months.

4. **Updates on local hospital services** : Ms. Lockwood reported that the state has allocated 5 million to the communities affected by the closure of Nashoba Hospital. Much is still unknown as to how that will be disbursed.
5. **Bucky's Corner**: Ms. Beale and Ms. Rabbitt came in to clean the furniture and in doing that moved the current furniture to the entrance area and set up tables and chairs in Bucky's Corner. Ms. Beale indicated that this is a temporary change to see how it works and is utilized. The pricing they have received for new furniture has been exorbitant. Ms. Lincoln shared the history of Bucky's Corner. She indicated that Mary Padula would be turning 100 this year on November 21st. She would like to consider having a Mary Padula day to honor her achievements and all she has done for this community.
6. **Update on Lunenburg Master Plan Meeting** : Ms. Lincoln reported they are meeting tomorrow night and would appreciate input. Ms. Lincoln reported there is not a lot in the plan that pertains to seniors. Ms. Lincoln would like an assisted Living Facility to be on the need to have list, not the want to have list. The Board indicated they support that change. Ms. Lockwood noted that she listened to a recent Planning Board meeting where it was discussed that one way the town can facilitate that that change would be through zoning.
7. **Building Permits for Seniors**: Ms. Lockwood presented an outline of how this program could work. She spoke to the benefits this could provide outside of financial savings, such as education and protection.
8. **Kitchen Staffing Update** : No update at this time.

DIRECTORS REPORT

1. **Upcoming Programs and Events**: Ms. Goodsell shared that the Sand for Seniors Program has been updated for this upcoming winter season, and the forms for that were presented to the board. Ms. Goodsell noted she has been looking at a grant through Mass DOT to offer additional transportation services. She reported on the past trip to the Harwich Winery and the upcoming trips: Christmas Festival at Mohegan Sun and Absolute Queen on the North Shore. Ms. Goodsell gave an update on recent classes and how they were received and detailed the upcoming events for the remainder of September, October and into November.

EAGLE HOUSE SUPPORTERS REPORT : Ms. Coulombe noted their information is available on Facebook and flyers are posted. There are a number of trips and raffles both now and upcoming.

NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS : none

BOARD COMMENT : none

ADJOURNEMENT A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Lockwood and seconded by Mr. Franco. It passed unanimously.